

encryption key pair. Schneier has been cited as teaching what McDonald is lacking. As noted above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. In particular, the office action cites page 3 namely “protocol addresses are used as an index” as allegedly showing selectable expiry data including public encryption key expiry data associated with a public encryption key that is selectable on a per client basis by a multi-client manager unit. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portion does not appear to teach the cited claim language. For example, the quoted language is from the KEY_DELETE section and states that the type of networking protocol which uses the key association and the protocol addresses are used as an index to find an association to be deleted. Applicants are not claiming indexing associations nor the deletion of a key. In fact, it appears that the cited portion is silent as to any selectable expiry data namely public encryption key expiry data associated with a public encryption key that is selectable on a per client basis. In contrast, the cited portion appears to merely describe that when a key is deleted, protocol addresses can be used to find out the key to be deleted. As such, since the cited reference does not appear to teach the claim language, the claim is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald and Schneier and further in view of RFC2137. Applicants respectfully reassert the relevant remarks made above with respect to claim 9 and as such this claim is also in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a conference would expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2-24-05

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